

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/537,863

Examiner

Devona E. Faulk

Applicant(s)

FUNAHASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10,13,14,19,20,25,26 and 31.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, filed 2/28/2005, with respect to claims 1-10,13,19,20,25,26 and 31 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112 rejection of claims 1-10,13,19,20,25,26 and 31 has been withdrawn.
2. Claims 1-10,13,19,20,25,26 and 31 are in allowable form.
3. Claims 11-12,15-18,21-24,27-30 are cancelled.

Reasons For Allowance

4. Claims 1-10,13,19,20,25,26 and 31.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding independent claims 1 and 31, Prior art EP 0 800 330 A2 to Funahashi et al. discloses a loudspeaker system and sound producing apparatus. Prior art GB 2 260 464 A to Hoblesberger discloses loudspeaker providing improved bass reproduction. Prior art GB 2 226 214 A to Gadea discloses a loudspeaker enclosure. Prior art US 4,924,963 to Polk discloses compact and efficient sub-woofer system and method for installation in structural partitions. Prior art US 4,905,788 to Lanternier discloses electro-acoustic transducers. Prior art US 4,139,075 to Kobayashi et al. discloses a loudspeaker device. Prior art JP 01-130697 to Sakamoto discloses a speaker system including a passive radiator disposed substantially opposite to a speaker. The speaker is mounted on the front face but the passive radiator is not. Prior art US 5,216,210 to Kammer discloses a loudspeaker system with passive sound reflective intensifier. Prior art US 5,189,706 to

Art Unit: 2644

Saeki discloses an acoustic apparatus. Prior art US 5,092,424 discloses electroacoustical transducing with at least three cascaded subchambers. The prior art of combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a baffle on which said speaker unit and passive radiator unit are directly mounted; a back plate and wherein said back plate forms said speaker box in combination with said baffle; wherein said speaker unit, said passive radiator unit and said baffle form a first closed chamber; wherein said speaker unit, said baffle and said back-plate form a second closed chamber; wherein said speaker unit is disposed so that a direction of said speaker unit is opposite to a direction of said passive radiator; said baffle forming a constituent part of a speaker box; wherein said speaker unit, said baffle and said passive radiator unit form a first closed chamber; wherein said backside portion of said baffle is provided with a reinforcement rib disposed of said speaker box. Therefore, the prior art or combination thereof fails to disclose or make obvious a speaker apparatus as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Devona E. Faulk whose telephone number is 571-272-7515. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 5 pm.

Art Unit: 2644

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin can be reached on 571-272-7848. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DEF


VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600